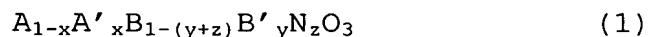


ABSTRACT

To provide a catalyst composition which prevents the activity from deteriorating due to grain growth of Rh and/or Pt and exhibits satisfactory catalytic performance over a long time, the catalyst composition is prepared so that it comprises a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals; A' represents at least one element selected from rare earth elements; B represents at least one element selected from Ti, Zr, and Hf; B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements (excluding rare earth elements, Ti, Zr, Hf, Rh, and Pt) and Al; N represents at least one element selected from Rh and Pt; x represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 \leq x \leq 0.4$; y represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 \leq y < 0.5$; z represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 < z \leq 0.5$; and X represents 0 when N represents Pt alone.